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MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

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SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

More than one thousand persons from sixty countries were registered for the Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D. C., during the week of June 16-22. The 62d Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association, host to the Congress, was held concurrently.

Dr. Luther L. Terry, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, served as Honorary President of the Congress. Dr. Frank B. Rogers, President of the Medical Library Association, was the General Chairman, and Miss M. Ruth MacDonald of the NLM staff served as Executive Secretary.

At the opening session on Sunday evening, June 16, the Congress heard Mr. William R. LeFanu, Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, who had been Chairman of the First International Congress on Medical Librarianship held in London in 1953. The Honorary President gave the opening address, seconded by remarks from Miss Grace Hamlyn for Canada and from Miss Judith Licea-Ayala for Mexico. The Congress members clicked the dials of their headsets as they sought the English, French, German, and Spanish translations from the simultaneous translation facility that was provided.

After the opening session there was a reception on the Shoreham Terrace. Although the coolness of the weather kept many persons inside, others enjoyed sitting at tables on the open veranda.

The first program session on Monday morning was chaired by Dr. André Hahn, Bibliothécaire en Chef de la Bibliothèque de la Faculté de Médecine, Paris. The topic was "Education and Training for Medical Librarianship," and Miss Gertrude L. Annan (New York), Miss Helen Yast (Chicago), Miss Margaret P. Russell (Birmingham, England), and Dr. Estelle Brodman (St. Louis) presented excellent papers.

The session on Monday afternoon dealt with "Utilization of Machines for Bibliographic Purposes,"and Dr. Tomio Ogata, Immediate Past President of the Japan Medical Library Association, was in the chair. The papers presented were by Dr. Mortimer Taube (Bethesda), Mme. Madeleine Wolff-Terroine (Paris), Mrs. Mary S. Waddell (Atlanta), and Mr. Robert F. Lewis (Los Angeles).

On Monday evening the American Medical Association was host to the members at a reception held at New South Hall of Georgetown University. Dr. Irving B. Brick, Dr. H.R. Downey, Dr. K. Albert Harden, Dr. Winfred Overholser, Dr. Alvin E. Parrish, Dr. George E. Schreiner, and Dr. Wallace M. Yater greeted the Congress members.

On Tuesday morning members of the National Library of Medicine staff presented a "Progress Report on the MEDLARS Project." Miss Louise Darling, Librarian of the Biomedical Library, University of California at Los Angeles, presided.

On Wednesday morning the Congress members moved by bus to the South Lawn of the White House, where the President of the United States addressed the group for an unforgettable few minutes. As an unexpected but welcome extra dividend, Adlai Stevenson, the U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations, also spoke. In the afternoon the group visited the National Library of Medicine, and in the evening adjourned to the Stone Lake Picnic Area of the National Naval Medical Center for hot dogs, hamburgers, fried chicken, potato salad, and beer, with background music provided by strolling musicians.

Mrs. Olinda Hempel de Camargo, Librarian of the Instituto Adolfo Lutz in São Paulo, Brazil, presided at a session on Thursday on "Problems of Library Organization," with papers by Dr. Alfred N. Brandon (Lexington), Miss Raquel Flores (Guatemala), Miss Lora-Frances Davis (San Antonio), and Miss Mary Bisset Lucas (Johannesburg). That afternoon Miss Hilda Clark, Medical Librarian and Information Officer for the British Council in London, presided over the session on "Aspects of Library Management." Papers were read by Mrs. Ruth C. MacKenzie (Boston), Mr. Frederick G. Kilgour (New Haven), Mr. H. D. Erlam (New Zealand), and Mr. Ralph T. Esterquest (Boston). Mr. Aleksandr N. Izvekov, Third Secretary of the Embassy of the U.S.S.R., read a paper prepared by Mr. A. Morozov (Moscow).

On Thursday evening the Medical Library Association was host at a cocktail hour. This was followed by a banquet, with tables set up in two large halls connected by closed-circuit television. Music was provided by the Sibley Hospital Student Nurses Chorus. On behalf of the Medical Library Association Mrs. Mildred C. Langner (Miami) presented the Murray Gottlieb Prize Essay Award to Miss Joan Titley (Louisville) for her paper on the early years of the Louisville

Medical Institute. The Ida and George Eliot Prize Essay Award went to Mrs. Thelma Charen and Dr.Frank B. Rogers (NLM) jointly for their paper on "Abbreviations for Medical Journal Titles."

Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director of NLM, on behalf of the MLA Awards Committee, then announced that the Marcia C. Noyes Award for distinguished service in medical librarianship - the highest award of the Association - was being made to Dr. Stanisław Konopka, Director of the Central Medical Library, Warsaw, Poland. Dr. Konopka made a moving speech of thanks, and was tendered a standing ovation.

Dr. Abraham Horwitz, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, gave a stirring address on the work of medical libraries, with particular reference to the South American continent, which was warmly received.

On Friday Mr. Samuel O. Falayi, Librarian of the Central Medical Library in Yaba, Nigeria, led a session on "Interlibrary Cooperation," with papers presented by Mr. H. A. Izant (WHO), Dr. Folke Strom (Göteborg), Mr. Takao Fukudome (Tokyo), Miss M. Doreen E. Fraser (Vancouver), and Miss Elizabeth L. Keenan (Brooklyn). Mr. LeFanu presided on Saturday, when the discussion was of "Special Problems of Historical Libraries," with papers by Mr. William Dosite Postell (New Orleans), Mr. Irwin H. Pizer (St. Louis), and Mr. E. Gaskell (London).

At the closing session a "Bridging Committee" to consider proposals for a future Third Congress was appointed. The members of this Committee are:

Dr. Folke Ström (Sweden), Chairman
Mrs. Olinda de Camargo (Brazil)
Dr. Frank B. Rogers (United States)
Mr. F. M. Sutherland (Great Britain)
Mr. Charles Tettey (Ghana)
Mr. Takeo Urata (Japan)
Mme. Madeleine Wolff-Terroine (France)

In addition, Mr. I. Vereskov (U.S.S.R.) will be invited to join the Committee.

Business meetings of the Medical Library Association were held on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, when groups of the medical librarians from overseas visited the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine. During the first part of the week sixty-one firms joined in a large exhibit of publications, library supplies, machines, and services.

Officers of the Medical Library Association for 1963/64 were installed at the close of the meeting. They are:

President - Miss Louise Darling (UCLA)
Vice-President- Dr. Estelle Brodman
(Washington University)
Secretary - Miss Myrl Ebert
(University of North Carolina)
Treasurer - Dr. Carroll F. Reynolds
(University of Pittsburgh)

New members of the Board of Directors are Mr. Alderson Fry (West Virginia University), Dr. David Kronick (Cleveland Medical Library), and Miss Mary M. Post (Ramsey County Medical Society, St. Paul).

The 63d Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association will be held at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, June 1-4, 1964. The Convention Chairman is Mrs. Carmenina Tomassini (University of California).

SUMMER HOURS

Service to readers at the National Library of Medicine in the evenings and on Sundays will be discontinued for the months of July and August this year. Beginning on Monday, July 1, and ending Saturday, August 31, the Library will be open to the public each day, Monday through Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Library will be closed on the holidays, July 4 and September 2.

DIRECTORY OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES

The National Library of Medicine will appreciate receiving detailed corrections, amendments, and additions to the data contained in its Directory of Medical Libraries Outside the United States and Canada, just issued.

COURSE FOR MEDICAL LIBRARIANS

The Escuela Interamericana de Bibliotecologia, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia, has announced its first course for librarians specializing in agricultural and medical sciences, July 22-November 30, 1963. Details may be obtained by writing to:

Mr. Luis Floren, Director
Escuela Interamericana de Bibliotecologia
Universidad de Antioquia
Apartado Aereo 1307
Medellin, Colombia

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